

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-10 are pending herein. Claims 7 and 11-14 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicants thank Examiner Peselev for indicating allowability of Claims 7-8.

The subject matter of allowable Claim 7 has now been incorporated in independent Claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-5 and 8-10 are all allowable. Further, it is respectfully submitted that since Claim 7 is a generic claim, the subject matter of which has now been incorporated in Claim 1, withdrawn Claim 6 depending from Claim 1, is also allowable. In summary, all pending Claims 1-6 and 8-10 are now allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of Claims 1, 4, 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Broussalian (U.S. Patent 3,980,765); Claims 1-4, 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Yamaguchi et al. (U.S. Patent 6,293,972); and Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) over Yui et al. (U.S. Patent 6,673,919), are all moot and are therefore respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-6 and 8-10 are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of all the rejections and objections and allowance of these claims are respectfully solicited.

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It is believed that no additional fee is due for this submission. However, should that determination be incorrect, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 01-0433, and notify the undersigned in due course.

Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to discuss further this matter, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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